

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF COUNCILWOMAN ELSIE
FRANKLIN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness and great respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most passionate and dedicated citizens, Lake County Councilwoman Elsie Franklin. Councilwoman Franklin passed away on Monday, May 6, 2019, at the age of 81. Her unwavering commitment to her constituents and her community is worthy of the highest praise, and she will be greatly missed by her family, friends, co-workers, and the many grateful residents whose lives she touched.

Elsie was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and moved to Gary, Indiana, at a young age. She attended Gary Roosevelt High School and built her life in the city of Gary. Ms. Franklin was a member of Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church and was very active in her faith throughout her lifetime. For Elsie, being able to improve her community and assist those in need was her life's purpose. She is remembered by family and friends as a role model who stood up for those who did not have a voice.

Throughout her lifetime of public service, Elsie Franklin served the people of Gary and Lake County in numerous capacities. She was the director of Gary's General Services under Mayor Thomas Barnes while also holding positions on various boards, charities, and organizations throughout the years. In 2002, she was elected to serve on the Lake County Council, representing the 2nd district. This victory marked the first time an African-American woman would serve on the Lake County Council. She was passionate about the people of her district and the issues they faced. Many remember her actively working to secure funding for services within the Lake County Juvenile Court system. The challenges facing the youth in the city of Gary and throughout Northwest Indiana were a priority for her, and Councilwoman Franklin was a true hero for her hard work and dedication to the children of our communities. Elsie served on the Lake County Council for the past seventeen years, and she was an outstanding activist for the people of her district and the city of Gary.

Councilwoman Franklin was also a strong leader for the Democratic Party in Northwest Indiana for many years. Throughout her remarkable career, spanning over 50 years, she served her party in numerous capacities. Elsie served as vice chairwoman of the Lake County Democratic Central Committee, and she was the first African-American woman to chair the Gary Democratic Precinct Organization.

Elsie Franklin is survived by her beloved children: Cherylynn, Michael, Kimberly, Kenya, Keesha, Theodore, and Dara. She also leaves to cherish her memory many dear friends and

family members, as well as a saddened but grateful community.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to a true public servant, Ms. Elsie Franklin. For her outstanding contributions to the city of Gary and to the community of Northwest Indiana, she is to be commended. Elsie Franklin's legacy will be forever remembered and will continue to inspire generations to come.

REMEMBERING LAURENCE M.
BLOCH

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday May 14, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember an important mentor, advisor and my quasi-brother/father, Laurence M. Bloch, whom the world knew as "Larry." Larry, a Memphis native and longtime real estate investor and contributor to humanitarian causes, passed away on February 23 in Santa Monica, California, at the age of 87.

A font of sage advice, Larry was constantly there for me and for many others who loved him for the caring individual he was. After graduating from Christian Brothers High School in 1949, Larry went to the University of Michigan, and led a group of Wolverines fans traveling by train with the team to the 1951 Rose Bowl where Michigan beat the California Golden Bears 14 to 6. Larry graduated with a degree in economics in 1953 then served two years in the U.S. Army before returning to Memphis where he was involved in the millinery business before settling into the real estate investment business.

He remained an avid Michigan fan his whole life and used to tape every game. Known for his disheveled salt-and-pepper hair and socks-less and tie-less style, and for riding his bicycle like Albert Einstein, he also drove around town in a Lincoln Continental with coach doors. He celebrated healthy eating habits as a prophet of whole grains and fiber. An investor with a keen eye for good deals in Memphis' downtown, he had the good sense and good fortune to own the property kitty-corner from The Peabody on Union Avenue that was torn down to create AutoZone Park.

A patron of the arts, he also supported the Memphis Crisis Center, Meals on Wheels and the Church Health Center among his charitable causes. As a cat lover, another of his charitable causes was The House of Mews, where he was for a while the top cat. A charming story teller, he provided useful advice and helped many people solve their problems. Larry liked: long walks, telling stories, giving advice, peanuts, cashmere sweaters, everything else cashmere, trains, maize and blue signs, a studied careless appearance, salads and, more than anything, Cheryl and his grandsons. Larry didn't like: being photo-

graphed, zoos, recognition, Ohio State or work hours extending two hours either side of lunch.

I was fortunate to have had him as a good friend and will miss him greatly. Much of what I am and have been is because of Larry Bloch. I thank Larry. I want to extend my condolences to his daughter Cheryl, to his grandsons Nick and Alex, to his sister Joyce whom he loved, and her family, and to his multitude of adoring friends. Larry Bloch led an exemplary life.

HONORING BEATRICE "BEBE"
COKER

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of my colleagues Senator TOM CARPER and Senator CHRIS COONS of Delaware, to honor and congratulate Beatrice "Bebe" Coker, a mother, sister, artist, advocate, mentor, leader, and recipient of the 2019 John H. Taylor Jr. Education Leadership Award.

Bebe, as she is affectionately called, is a lifelong advocate for quality public education, the arts, and diversity and inclusion. She was honored by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce affiliate, The Partnership, Inc., at Superstars in Education Reception and Awards Ceremony on May 13, 2019, for her unrelenting dedication and leadership in advancing education for all children and making our community a better place to live and work.

Ms. Coker is a revered community mobilizer and literacy advocate, as well as a champion of social justice in Delaware. Among her many contributions to our state, Ms. Bebe was appointed by former Gov. Pierre S. du Pont to join the Citizens Alliance for Public Education to ensure the peaceful desegregation of Delaware schools. She has volunteered for countless organizations, including The Christiana Cultural Art Center, the NAACP Young Adults Group and the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. She chaired the State Civil Rights Commission and has aided numerous organizations focused on literacy.

Bebe holds a bachelor's degree from Morgan State University and a Doctor of Humanities from Delaware State University. She is a playwright, poet, and lyricist. She is, quite simply, a renaissance woman.

Never one to shy away from fighting for what she believed in, her work throughout Delaware has had a tremendous impact on us all. As a writer, or through her work in the community, she has always been an honest story teller—the stories of our past, our present, and those that inform the work we do to create a better future.

A mentor to many young people, Ms. Coker's greatest source of pride and support is embodied in her three "daughter/best

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

friends", retired Capt. Laurie Coker, U.S. Navy Public Health Services, CDC, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Joan Coker, Head and Neck Surgeon, Wilmington, DE; and Julie Coker Graham, President & CEO, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau. While each has accomplished much in the "career-world", Ms. Coker's pride stems from each embracing a love of service to others as their privilege and responsibility.

A community activist in Delaware for over 50 years, Bebe is an inspiration to me. I am proud to stand here today with my fellow Delawareans honoring an extraordinary woman with an extraordinary heart, who is steadfast and unmovable in our community and who consistently sacrifices her time and talent to improve the lives of others. Ms. Coker's anchor is her strong faith in God and lifelong words she was taught to live by, "Don't let your talents take you, where your character can't keep you. It is all about the "integrity of one—you".

SAVANNA'S ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, Native women in the U.S. face tragically high rates of violence, sexual assault, and murder. According to the CDC, murder is the third leading cause of death among Native women, with rates of violence ten times that of the national average on reservations.

I rise today in support of Savanna's Act, which will recognize Native women victims and make sure that their invisibility by law enforcement ends. I understand the devastating effects of colonization and the disproportionate harm and risk for Native women. We must work together to pass Savanna's Act, which will substantially strengthen federal and tribal investigations into the disappearance of Indigenous women, and increase the likelihood of prosecuting these violent crimes.

Savanna's Act will also create and improve procedures, communication, and cooperation among federal, state, tribal, and local agencies that may share jurisdiction over these crimes. These provisions will also improve recording and sharing of data so these women are no longer invisible to law enforcement.

I thank Rep. TORRES for taking the lead on this important piece of legislation. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this life-saving legislation, and I urge House leaders to move swiftly to bring it to the floor for a vote.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHIEF DAVID FRENZEL WITH THE ORANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great man and thank him for fifty years of service to the City of Orange's Fire Department, Chief David Frenzel. Chief

Frenzel was born on June 25, 1947 to E.P. and Sophia Frenzel in Orange, Texas. He and his brother, Dolan, were raised there and attended public school.

Chief Frenzel began his college career at Lamar Tech anticipating a career in the medical field. In the spring of 1969 Fire Chief Vertis Sands called and offered him a job with the fire department on a Thursday. He withdrew from classes at Lamar on Friday and went to work at the fire department on Saturday, April 19, 1969. The rest, as they say, is history. Chief Frenzel did go on to earn his degree from Lamar University in Fire Protection Technology in 1978 and completed the Executive Officer program through the National Fire Academy in 2000.

Through the years, Chief Frenzel advanced through the ranks at the fire department and was named Fire Chief in 1997. Today he continues to serve in that capacity, claiming that he still has a few things he would like to accomplish within the department before retirement.

In addition to his firefighter duties, Chief Frenzel has volunteered in many capacities throughout the community, including service on St. Mary's Catholic Church Pastoral Council; serving on the boards of the Sabine Neches Chief Association and Lamar Institute of Technology; and serving as Scout Master for Troop 1 for twenty-five years with 75 young men earning the rank of Eagle Scout under his leadership.

Chief Frenzel and his wife Hildy have been married for 41 years and have two sons, David and Adam, both of whom were valedictorians at West Orange Stark High School and went on to graduate from Texas A & M University. They are also the proud grandparents of five grandchildren Charlie, Sam, Andy, Abigail, and Alden.

Chief Frenzel is known for his humble ways, quick wit, and knowledge of Orange history. His most admirable quality is his love of God, his family, and for the Orange Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chief Frenzel on his half century of dedicated service to the Orange Fire Department and in thanks of a heroism few share, but all are grateful for.

RECOGNIZING BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF COLLIN COUNTY ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, in October 1968, the "Boys Club of McKinney" under the leadership of Mr. Henry L. Shoap, was created to assist young men in developing the skills, attitudes, and aptitudes to make successful decisions in life. In April 1969, after receiving incorporation from the national organization, the Club would officially open its doors on the historic McKinney Square.

A decade later, girls would be admitted to the organization. However, it would take another seven years for the Club to officially change its name to the Boys & Girls Clubs of McKinney. In time, the Club came to be a popular destination for kids from around Collin

County to assemble in a safe and fun learning environment.

In 1988, in order to expand their area of service, the Club would officially change its name one final time to Boys & Girls Club of Collin County. Similar to its inception fifty years ago, the mission remains largely the same: To enable all young people, especially those most in need, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible individuals.

The Boys & Girls Club of Collin County provides a valuable service—and sometimes the only option—to those children needing a place to go after school. Today, over 10,000 Collin County children and teens are regularly served by locations in McKinney, Plano, and Frisco. Kids who attend the Club are afforded a variety of programs and activities that assist in allowing them to meet key areas of development while gaining independence and learning tools to become productive members of their community.

For this reason, I am proud to congratulate Boys & Girls Club of Collin County on their 50th anniversary of service to a grateful community. Under the leadership of so many selfless individuals, including current CEO E. Michael Simpson, your dedicated team of leaders has worked to ensure that those who would most benefit from the services provided by your organization are allowed to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this tremendous organization for improving the lives of countless children over the past five decades while growing our next generation of community leaders.

NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to commend several exceptional leaders from Indiana who will be honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame Class of 2019. While there are many deserving nominees, this year's inductees include Kenneth J. Allen, Benito Gamba, Ron McColly, and David Van Eekeren. In addition, U.S. Steel will be presented with the Enterprise of the Year Award. For their many contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, these honorees will be recognized at the 12th Annual Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, and United States Senator TODD YOUNG will serve as keynote speakers for this special event.

Kenneth J. Allen graduated from Gary Lew Wallace High School and went on to study at Valparaiso University and the Indiana University School of Law. Before becoming an attorney, Mr. Allen worked in construction and then for a railroad company at a steel mill. After graduating law school, Ken opened his law firm in Valparaiso, focusing on personal injury

and wrongful death litigation. Today, his business consists of six locations, three in Indiana and three in Illinois. The Kenneth Allen Law Group tirelessly seeks out cases that can bring about true change in society. Mr. Allen also gives much of his time and support to various charitable endeavors, including the Lake Area United Way and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana.

Benito Gamba is the founder and owner of Gamba Ristorante, located in Merrillville, Indiana. Benito was born in Altomonte, Italy, and moved to the United States in 1977. After working in several established restaurants, Mr. Gamba opened his own place, Café Venezia, in 1988. In 2001, he then opened the Venezia Bar and Grill, which was followed by the opening of his current establishment, Gamba Ristorante, in 2006. At this time in his life, Benito is focused on providing good jobs and continuing to share his love of food with the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

Ron McColly, a Gary native, is the owner of McColly Real Estate, the largest residential real estate company in Northwest Indiana. Throughout the years, Mr. McColly continued to build his business, and he has been immensely successful due to his outstanding leadership skills and determination. Today, McColly Real Estate consists of twenty-three real estate offices throughout the region. The McColly Company includes: Community Title, McColly Bennett Commercial, McColly Insurance, McColly Auctions, and the McColly School of Real Estate. Ron has continuously given back to the community through charitable support for numerous organizations, including the Methodist Hospitals Foundation and the Crown Point YMCA, among many others.

David Van Eekeren is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Land O'Frost, a processed deli meat company that is headquartered in Munster, Indiana. David is the third generation of his family to run the business. Land O'Frost is currently the third largest producer of processed deli meats in the United States and has plants in Illinois, Kentucky, and Arkansas. Under Mr. Van Eekeren's leadership the company continues to grow and is focused on adding new and innovative products. David gives back to his community in many ways, especially through his support for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and his service as a trustee for the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The recipient of the Enterprise of the Year Award is U.S. Steel for recently pledging two billion dollars to a company-wide asset revitalization program. A large part of the revitalization program is allocated for Gary Works, which is the largest integrated steel mill in North America and stretches for seven miles along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Gary Works currently employs more than 3,800 people, providing good jobs for hard-working families throughout the region. The revitalization program will ensure that the company is able to continue building the economy in Gary and Northwest Indiana for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these dedicated leaders and organizations upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. They are truly deserving of this honor, and for their exceptional leadership and commitment

to the region and beyond, each of them is worthy of the highest praise.

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and commemoration of the many victims and survivors of gun violence and to commemorate National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Nevada's Third Congressional District.

On average, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence every day and nearly 13,000 gun homicides occur each year. Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other high-income countries.

Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories, and protecting the public's safety in the communities they serve.

Representatives and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe.

In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 22nd birthday. To honor Hadiya—and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day—a national coalition of organizations has designated June 7, 2019, the first Friday in June, as the 5th National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

The idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this orange for two reasons: hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange symbolizes the value of human life.

Anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 7th, the first Friday in June in 2019, to help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors.

We renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I unintentionally missed an amendment vote due to conversation with other members. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 191.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MARGARITA LÓPEZ PRENTICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Washington State Senator Margarita López Prentice, who will be remembered for her dedication to public service.

I had the pleasure of serving with Ms. López Prentice in the Washington State Legislature, where she was the first Latina elected as a Washington State Senator. After first being elected in 1988, she served as a public official in the Washington State House of Representatives for four years, and then in the Washington Senate, for 27 years. Before her retirement in 2013, Ms. López Prentice served as the Senate Pro Tempore, and as Chairwoman of various committees. She was known for her caring manner, her mentorship, and her ability to forge bipartisan partnerships. Ms. López Prentice's many contributions to the State Legislature earned her the distinction of Legislator of the Year in 2006 from several organizations, including the Washington Health Care Association and the Washington State Labor Council.

Ms. López Prentice was dedicated to bettering the lives of others. Her career in nursing and her passion for women's health, LGBTQ rights, veterans' benefits, and migrant workers' rights, demonstrate her commitment to helping others. During her 30-year career as a nurse and nurse administrator, Ms. López Prentice was active in the Washington State Nurses Association, where she ultimately became vice president of the association. Ms. López Prentice spent countless hours giving back to the Renton community through her service for the Renton Historical Society and the Renton Area Youth Services, as well as on the Renton School Board.

Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I offer my condolences to the family and friends of Senator Margarita López Prentice. I am confident that her love of public service will continue to inspire Washington State Legislators for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, due to flooding and severe weather in my district this week, I was unable to vote on May 10 and the prior day. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall No. 200.

HONORING THE LIFE AND HEROIC
ACTIONS OF RILEY HOWELL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life and actions of

Riley Howell, a true hero who sacrificed himself to save countless lives on May 1st at UNC Charlotte.

Riley was a 21-year-old student who had just transferred to UNC Charlotte last fall after studying at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. When a former student began shooting in his classroom, Riley was the first to ignore the danger and charge towards the gunman. Despite being shot three times, he still tackled the shooter with enough force to knock him off his feet. Riley's actions prevented the shooter from reloading and allowed campus police to intervene before any more damage could be done. However, Riley's courageous actions came at a dire cost—he passed away from his wounds.

Since Riley's passing, I have read story after story that speak to Riley's ingenuity, kind heart, love of Star Wars, and upstanding character. When folks heard about his heroic actions, they said it sounded exactly like what Riley would do to help someone in need or protect those who couldn't protect themselves. I'm as much in awe of Riley's actions as I am devastated that such carnage could happen at a place that made such a lasting impact on my life.

As a proud UNC Charlotte alumnus, my thoughts and prayers are with Riley's parents, Thomas Howell and Natalie Henry-Howell, his eight younger siblings, and all who loved him. As a father, I cannot imagine the depth of their grief and I offer my deepest condolences.

I know I speak for the entire community when I say, Riley will always be remembered for his heroic and selfless actions and I will do everything in my power to honor his memory and sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Riley Howell and his heroic actions.

**HONORING THE DEPARTMENT OF
NEW YORK OF THE SONS OF
UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL
WAR ON THEIR 136TH ANNUAL
NEW YORK DEPARTMENT EN-
CAMPMENT**

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The Department of New York of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as they gather for their 136th annual encampment.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a fraternal organization founded nationally in 1881. Their mission is to preserve the history and legacy of those who fought and worked and died to preserve the Union. Its members are all descendants of soldiers, sailors, marines and revenue cutter service members who served honorably during the war.

The New York Department was founded two years after the national organization in 1883. Since that time, they have met annually in an encampment to conduct business, plan future volunteer activities and elect leaders. This historic organization has been dedicated to preserving the memory and legacy of those who bravely served for generations. They have volunteered their time at historical cemeteries en-

suring that the monuments and headstones of civil war veterans do not fall into disrepair and are maintained for future generations to see and reflect on. They also maintain an impressive collection of U.S. flags used by the military as far back as the War of 1812.

The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War do us all a great service by preserving the memory and physical reminders of our history for future generations. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank them for 136 years of dedicated public service.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE BANNING
SMOKING ON AMTRAK ACT OF 2019**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Banning Smoking on Amtrak Act of 2019. My bill would simply codify Amtrak's internal policy prohibiting smoking, including of electronic cigarettes, on its trains. This bill is modeled on a bill I got enacted as part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (P.L. 115–254) that clarified that the smoking ban on airplanes includes electronic cigarettes.

Although Amtrak implemented its own internal policy banning smoking on its trains in 1993, that policy could always be repealed, though Amtrak has not indicated it would do so. My bill would make the ban a matter of federal law and put Congress on the record in support of protecting people from secondhand smoke.

Smoking bans have been a critical tool in protecting people from the effects of secondhand smoke, known to increase the risk for serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases like coronary heart disease, lung cancer and emphysema, among others. The World Health Organization (WHO) considers the tobacco epidemic to be one of the biggest public health threats in the world, killing more than seven million people a year. While more than six million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use, around 890,000 non-smokers exposed to secondhand smoke are also killed every year.

Under my bill, smoking would be banned on Amtrak trains in the same manner as airline travel. According to the WHO, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. Even short-term exposure can potentially increase the risk of heart attacks.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE RENEW-
ABLE ENERGY TRANSFER-
ABILITY ACT**

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the climate crisis we face is one of the most important challenges of our time. There has been a lot of alarming news—the last four years were the hottest years on record, and

we are seeing more and more extreme weather events devastate our communities. However, one of the success stories that we've seen in our efforts to combat climate change is the growth in renewable energy, particularly among wind and solar energy.

Today Representative DARIN LAHOOD and I are introducing the Renewable Energy Transferability Act to increase the deployment of renewable energy resources by making them transferable. This bipartisan legislation allows any entity involved in a renewable energy project to make a transfer after the due date of return (including extensions) of the Production Tax Credit and the Investment Tax Credit on a limited basis.

These two tax credits are some of the most successful renewable energy policies on the books, yet they have been hampered by requiring their beneficiaries to enter into complex tax arrangements. Transferability will allow these credits to reach a wider base of investors, expanding the deployment of renewable energy and lowering carbon emissions for consumers.

At a time of unprecedented climatic changes and public calls for action, Congress must act. While this legislation can only play part of a role in helping address the climate crisis, it takes an important step in assisting a key industry. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass the Renewable Energy Transferability Act into law.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. DOUG
JEFFE**

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Doug Jeffe. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Doug was both a prominent figure in California politics and an invaluable member of our community. It was an honor for me to have known Mr. Jeffe, and I am incredibly sad he is no longer with us.

For over two decades, Doug was the aide and protégé of California State Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh. He later put this experience to work as a campaign manager, policy advocate, and writer. In 1995, Doug founded Issues Management Network, a firm that specializes in message engineering and ballot measure campaigns. Doug used his policy experience and campaign skills to promote measures that would help others: for example, in 2002, Doug led a successful ballot measure campaign that secured funds to save and support trauma centers in Los Angeles County. No matter what he was working on, Doug's colleagues always noted his unflagging good humor and genial nature, an attitude that garnered him many friends over the years.

In addition to his work as a political professional, Doug was also the president of the Board of Directors of L.A. Theatre Works and served on the board of the Venice Family Clinic, two important community institutions in our region. He also contributed to the political blog Fox & Hounds Daily and lectured on political communications at the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Doug is survived by his beloved wife, Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, with whom he spent over 50 years traveling the world. Doug is also missed by his rescue pit bull, Kennedy, and his innumerable friends and colleagues. He will forever be remembered for his selflessness and work to make a positive meaningful impact on his community.

HONORING LEIGHA PETERSON

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Leigha Peterson, the first student to earn a doctoral degree from Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. She graduated this weekend with a Doctor of Philosophy in Marine Science.

This is just Leigha's most recent landmark accomplishment during her impressive tenure at Coastal Carolina University. She is the first to earn all three levels of undergraduate and postgraduate education from Coastal Carolina. While earning her Ph.D., she was Coastal Carolina's first doctoral student representative and helped other students successfully interact with their professors. In addition to co-authoring 25 research papers, she also participated in research trips to Antarctica, Brazil, the Gulf of Mexico, Jamaica, and Canada to further her studies.

Leigha's graduation is not only a huge personal achievement, but a major success for Coastal Carolina University. I know Leigha will be the first of many innovators and entrepreneurs that earn prestigious degrees from Coastal Carolina University before making their mark on the world. We are all very proud of Leigha, and wish her success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACQUIE JONES-WALSH

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Jacquie Jones-Walsh, whose work combating injustice in the workplace has improved the lives of an unmeasurable amount of people in Washington State.

Ms. Jones-Walsh tirelessly worked with, and in many cases led, a number of organizations with the singular purpose of supporting the rights of all workers. Ms. Jones-Walsh fought to eliminate the barriers that people of color and women so often face. She served tirelessly as a leader representing several organizations. Ms. Jones-Walsh was the second Vice President of the Seattle King County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), State President for the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Vice President of the Washington State Labor Council, President of the Seattle Blacks in Government (BIG) Chapter, a founding member of the Seattle MLK Jr. Organizing Coalition, and served several terms

as President of the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) Local 843, to name a few.

A long-time advocate for expanding and protecting affirmative action, Ms. Jones-Walsh played an active part in a recent campaign to approve Initiative 1000. This Washington state initiative lifts a ban on affirmative action in education, employment and contracting and extends it to include women, veterans, people with disabilities, and all people of color. Her advocacy on this and countless other projects will be missed.

I have personally worked with Ms. Jones-Walsh several times. Each time I've had the pleasure of meeting with her, she exhibited the passion, diligence and intelligence that her groundbreaking causes deserved. It was these qualities and her devotion to the community that made her such a staple in Washington State.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the life of Jacquie Jones-Walsh, whose leadership in the labor community has been an inspiration for many people. Her dedication and commitment to fighting for equality will live on through her legacy, and she will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I missed two roll call votes. Had I been present I would have voted:

Yes on the Huffman of California Part C Amendment No. 6 on H.R. 2157, Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019 (Roll Call No. 199). This amendment prohibits funds in the bill from being used to enforce regulations requiring within two years construction of agency relief projects funded by the Federal Highway Administration.

Yes on the Sablan of Northern Mariana Islands Part C Amendment No. 3 on H.R. 2157, Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019 (Roll Call No. 198). This amendment increases funding for waste water treatment plants impacted by Typhoon Yutu by \$8,800,000 for repair and resiliency.

HONORING THOMAS J. SCHWARZ

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Thomas J. Schwarz, President of State University of New York, Purchase College, as the College honors him this month for his 17 years of distinguished leadership on the occasion of his retirement.

Since Mr. Schwarz was appointed as Purchase College's fifth President in 2003, the college has seen substantially improved retention and graduation rates. He prioritized social responsibility throughout his presidency. In 2007, he signed the "American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment," expressing the sense that Purchase College

would chart a course toward climate neutrality. In 2015, Purchase College constructed its first LEED Gold-certified campus building and continues to renovate existing buildings with more energy-efficient technology. Mr. Schwarz oversaw the development of the Broadview Senior Living Center, a senior living community on the Purchase College Campus that will promote lifelong learning.

Throughout his career, he was deeply committed to public service. He served as mayor of the Village of Ocean Beach, New York; Special Counsel to the New York State Commission on Government Integrity; Chief Judge to the Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Integrity, and Counsel to the Governor's Judicial Screening Program. The Legal Aid Society recognized him with its Pro Bono Award in 1998.

Madam Speaker, I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in expressing thanks to Mr. Schwarz for his many years of outstanding public service and student advocacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call Vote Nos. 197, 198, 199, 200, 201 and 202, I am not recorded because I was not present in the House.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 197; NAY on Roll Call No. 198; NAY on Roll Call No. 199; YEA on Roll Call No. 200; YEA on Roll Call No. 201; and NAY on Roll Call No. 202.

IN HONOR OF THE WYOMING STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wyoming State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which will hold its annual conference May 16–19, in Lander, Wyoming.

The Daughters of the American Revolution has a long tradition of promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism across the country and state of Wyoming. This year at their conference, members from around the state will come together to celebrate their contributions to Wyoming history and society, and hear from a host of speakers, including other D.A.R. members from across the country.

I would also like to thank the members of the Daughters of the American Revolution for all they do to preserve the history of our great state and country and to promote the importance of education and patriotism of our great nation.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge the many contributions the women of the Daughters of the American Revolution have made throughout history, and continue to make today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, on May 9th and 10th, I attended my son's graduation from Naval Academy Preparatory School and was therefore unable to cast my vote on several pieces of legislation. If present, I would have voted NAY on ordering the previous question to H. Res. 357 (Roll Call No. 189) and NAY on agreeing to H. Res. 357 (Roll Call No. 190).

I would have also voted on amendments to H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Pre-existing Conditions Act, in the following way: YEA on the Brown Amendment (Roll Call No. 191); YEA on the Holding Amendment (Roll Call No. 192); NAY on the Malinowski Amendment (Roll Call No. 193); and NAY on the Wild Amendment (Roll Call No. 194). I would have voted YEA to recommit H.R. 986 (Roll Call No. 195) and voted NAY on passage (Roll Call No. 196). Despite its title, H.R. 986 does nothing to protect preexisting conditions. Instead, I would have supported my colleague Representative GREG WALDEN's bill, H.R. 692, the Pre-existing Conditions Protection Act, if it were brought before the House for consideration.

Furthermore, I would have voted on amendments to H.R. 2157, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019, in the following way: NAY on the Perlmutter amendment (Roll Call No. 197); NAY on the Sablan amendment (Roll Call No. 198); NAY on the Huffman amendment (Roll Call No. 199); and YEA on the Fletcher amendment (Roll Call No. 200). I would have voted YEA to recommit H.R. 2157 (Roll Call No. 201) and NAY on passage of H.R. 2157 (Roll Call No. 202). While I support targeted funding to help communities recover from flooding, especially in Minnesota, this bill carelessly adds to our growing national debt. Future generations will be forced to confront the over \$22 trillion in debt unless Washington can find a way to reform the appropriations process to address unchecked federal spending.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF ELLIS
"REED" PARLIER**
HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Ellis "Reed" Parlier, a young man from North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District whose life was taken much too soon on May 1st of this year.

Reed was full of passion, wit and intelligence. A top student and avid gamer, Reed planned to turn his love of video games into a Computer Science degree and a career as a game developer. He had the reputation of being gifted academically with a witty sense of humor, and had his whole life ahead of him as he finished his freshman year at UNC Charlotte.

It absolutely breaks my heart that Reed's life was taken from us during a tragic, sense-

less shooting on UNC Charlotte's campus. My years at UNC Charlotte made an indelible impact on who I am today, and I was shaken to my core when I learned of Reed's death last week. My thoughts and prayers are with Reed's family during this time of sorrow. As a father, I cannot imagine the depth of your grief.

I know I speak for the entire 49er community when I say we all share your pain and mourning—no one deserves to lose a child, especially on a campus like UNC Charlotte where so many terrific, transformative experiences take place for tens of thousands of students each year.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Ellis "Reed" Parlier.

**RECOGNIZING KATHY HAGGART
ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 22
YEARS AT THE BOYS AND GIRLS
CLUBS OF BELLEVUE**
HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Kathy Haggart, the CEO and President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, on her retirement.

Kathy Haggart has had a remarkable career in the nonprofit sector—having worked in nonprofit management for nearly 36 years. Ms. Haggart has spent the majority of her nonprofit work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue serving as the President and CEO for 22 years. She was appointed as the President and CEO in 1997 after a successful term as the Club's Director of Development. In her position as President and CEO, Kathy oversaw 12 Club locations and managed a multi-million dollar budget. Ms. Haggart is an incredible, high-performing leader with an exceptional ability to bring teams together.

During her time as President and CEO, Ms. Haggart fostered strong relationships between the Boys & Girls Clubs and the larger community. She strengthened partnerships with the City of Bellevue, the Bellevue School District, the King County Housing Authority, Youth Eastside Services, and other notable community organizations. She has helped shift the focus of the Clubs to include community outreach and services for parents as well.

Under her guidance, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue expanded from one clubhouse to over 12 program sites. Additionally, the Club received many awards for program excellence from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and local organizations. These include "Best of" recognition in several local publications, and selection as a "Community Treasure" by a local school. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue serve over 11,000 children and teenagers with educational programming, afterschool activities, summer programs, and athletics. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue thrived under Ms. Haggart's innovative leadership.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Kathy Haggart on her retirement from her longtime service to the adolescents of the Bellevue community.

IN HONOR OF HELENA SCHWARZ

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today with bittersweet sentiment and thanks to my Legislative Director, Helena Schwarz.

Helena has spent her career focusing on public service. Working in the Maryland Legislature, and eventually here in the U.S. House of Representatives, she has always found ways to support policies and people she believes in.

Helena joined my office more than four years ago after serving in the office of my colleague, Congressman SARBANES from Maryland. During her tenure on "Team Boyle" she has been a steady hand that provided guidance to the legislative team and substantive policy advice to me. She is thorough, dedicated, and always willing to advocate for policies in which she believes.

A Michigan native, Helena quickly adapted to the City of Brotherly Love. In her time here, she's worked tirelessly to elevate the voices of blue-collar workers and the shrinking middle class, and to ensure that all Americans have a fair shot at achieving the American Dream. The people we serve in my district have greatly benefited from her service to this institution.

Helena will still be part of the important policy debates we have ahead of us, as she leaves to lead an advocacy effort focused on America's infrastructure agenda.

I wish her the best of luck on this venture, and I look forward to seeing her package on the House floor in the future.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER IN-
FRASTRUCTURE TRUST FUND
ACT**
HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, America's water systems are in crisis. While our clean water needs are estimated to be nearly \$14 billion per year for the next 20 years, funding has averaged less than \$1.5 billion annually since 2011. Drinking water infrastructure is in worse shape—the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that we need to invest over \$23 billion annually for the next 20 years to ensure the provision of safe drinking water, while Congress typically appropriates less than \$1 billion a year. Though most of our water and wastewater systems are 75–100 years old, these growing challenges are not due to age alone: federal investment has fallen more than 85 percent since 1977. Last year alone, American communities suffered more than 250,000 water main breaks and saw overflowing combined sewer systems. These problems will only increase with inadequate and inconsistent funding. That is why I am introducing the Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act of 2019.

This legislation will provide a small, deficit-neutral source of revenue to help states replace, repair, and rehabilitate critical clean and

drinking water facilities. Half of the trust fund revenue will be distributed to local governments as grants and loans through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for wastewater treatment construction, while the other half will be distributed through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to finance projects to meet federal drinking water standards. The Water Infrastructure Trust Fund will be capitalized by a voluntary labeling and fee system, to which businesses that rely on a clean water source can opt-in. Participating businesses would include a small label on their products indicating their commitment to protecting America's clean water, contributing \$0.03 to each federal drinking water unit. Businesses and products that could take advantage of the labeling system include: water-based beverages, products disposed of in wastewater, and pharmaceuticals.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to reduce pollution, protect public health, and provide the funding communities need to ensure clean tap water.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, on May 8, 2019, I was present and voted for two bills on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. I voted in favor of H.R. 1520, the Purple Book Continuity Act. However, my vote did not register on Roll Call 188. I voted to advance the legislation out of the Energy and Commerce Committee and supported its passage on the House floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE J.W. DARDEN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 1969

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 graduating class of J.W. Darden High School in Opelika, Alabama.

The purple and gold Panther alumni are celebrating their 50 years since graduation. The graduating class had 107 students and date of graduation was May 1969. Class officers included: President—Charles Harper, Vice President—Harvey Jackson, Secretary—Evelyn Melton and Treasurer—Frances Forman. Mr. Wilbert D. Payne, Jr. serves as local Chairperson of the 1969 graduating class.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 1969 graduating class of J.W. Darden High School and congratulate them on this 50-year milestone.

RECOGNIZING JON FINE ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 18 YEARS AT UNITED WAY OF KING COUNTY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Jon Fine, the CEO and President of United Way of King County, on his retirement.

Jon Fine has served as the CEO and President of United Way of King County for the past 18 years. He has been credited with making King County one of the leading branches of United Way. Before joining United Way, Mr. Fine had a distinguished career in finance, which aided his ability to restructure United Way of King County's giving program.

Under his leadership, United Way of King County's programs have thrived. Mr. Fine led the growth of the homelessness prevention program to include over 2,200 units of permanent supportive housing. In addition, Mr. Fine's commitment to ensuring all youth have access to education helped to scale the United Way's parent-child home program from serving 160 families to over 1,300 families—with the goal of providing better educational outcomes for low-income children. Mr. Fine also spearheaded the creation of the Gates Challenge Endowment, which is one of the largest fundraising campaigns of any United Way chapter.

Throughout his tenure, Jon Fine fostered innovative partnerships with businesses and other organizations that strengthened United Way of King County. Mr. Fine always encouraged program staff to think big. He challenged them to reach more people, start more services, and expand fundraising. Mr. Fine's commitment to service, innovative thinking, and vibrant nature are sure to remain with the United Way of King County going forward.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Jon Fine on his retirement from his longtime service to the communities of King County.

THE BAJRAKTARIS—50 YEARS IN AMERICA—A STORY OF STRUGGLE, PERSEVERANCE, AND TRIUMPH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor an extraordinary Albanian-American family and my constituents, the Bajraktaris, and their journey of struggles and triumphs. Long before they came to the United States, this family earned its place in history books with acts of great bravery and generosity. The Bajraktaris originally hail from their hometown of Vranoc, located on the outside of Peja, a city in Kosova. Throughout history, they were locally recognized leaders who led more than 40 villages in the struggle for the freedom of Kosova.

Empires came and went, but the Bajraktaris remained. Their famous family towers and

homes were burned down at least five times by various groups such as the Ottomans, the Serbs, the Montenegrins, the Fascists, the Nazis and then by the Communists. Each time they stood up to the invaders, chased them out, and rebuilt their communities. They were proud of their freedom, their Albanian heritage and tradition, and they were proud defenders of their homeland.

This is the context in which, Harry Bajraktari, a well-known Albanian-American leader, was born and grew up. Throughout his life, Harry was inspired by the stories of struggle for the survival of the Albanian nation and the perseverance of his ancestors.

In 1969, the life of his family reached a turning point. Facing political oppression by the Yugoslav government and economic hardship, his parents, Metë and Ziza Bajraktari, decided to journey to the United States of America, together with their four children, including Harry, and his siblings, Nurija, Litafete and Hateme.

They traveled by train to Italy, where they applied for political asylum in the United States. After nine months away from home, their application was approved, and on February 24, 1970, the Bajraktari family arrived in New York. They had no money and spoke no English. Through their new community, they found help from other families and friends who had previously immigrated to the United States. At the beginning, they lived at the home of Musli and Hysen Mulosmani and their family, who hosted them with generosity in The Bronx, NY.

Over the last 50 years, I can personally attest that the Bajraktari family have achieved the American Dream. They have been hardworking and dedicated, and they have made the most of the opportunities that their new homeland has had to offer. Still, like many immigrants, life was not easy. Metë Bajraktari worked as a maintenance worker during the day and his wife Ziza as a janitor during the night. Through sacrifice and determination, Metë and Ziza strived to give their children a chance for a better life.

Their sacrifices soon paid off. At the early age of 20, my good friend, Harry Bajraktari, exhibited extraordinary entrepreneurial skills and spirit, when he began to purchase real estate in The Bronx. Alongside his uncle, Rrustem Gecaj, they founded Bajraktari Realty and, in the following decades, expanded their business ventures throughout New York and Kosova.

Harry's entrepreneurial achievements had a major impact that extended well beyond the reach of the Bajraktari family. His accomplishments contributed to the revival in the Bronx and, in turn, made it possible for him to help an abundance of people in need. Bajraktari Realty's success created jobs and stimulated growth for other businesses around his properties, ranging from real estate, restaurants, and more. Once again, the Bajraktari family legacy brought real change to the lives of people in their community.

Though the family was experiencing success in their new home, they never forgot the people and the country they left behind. Their birthplace, Kosova, descended into dark times under the oppression of the Serbian strongman, Slobodan Milosevic. At the same time, and for over 50 years, Albania was under the iron fist of communist dictator, Enver Hoxha. The Bajraktari family answered the call to help their homeland and began to mobilize the people of Kosova and Albania.

Harry Bajraktari soon became an Albanian-American community leader and worked hard to educate politicians, diplomats, and experts on the issue of Kosova and Albania.

The Kosovar crisis was part of the larger Yugoslavian implosion, with genocide and massive war crimes ravaging the now-dissolved country. With waves of refugees and a spreading instability in southern Europe, it was clear that American leadership was desperately needed.

Fortunately, the cause for Kosovar independence found broad bipartisan support in Congress and throughout the country. With Harry's guidance, I helped found the bipartisan Albanian Issues Caucus more than 25 years ago. I'll never forget traveling to Kosova in 1996 with Harry and raising the American flag at the opening of the United States Information Agency office in Kosova's capital, Prishtina.

Through his efforts fighting for freedom in Kosova, Harry and many of his friends in the Albanian American community came to know and work closely with leaders in the Senate and House. Across the American political spectrum, Harry led his community in meetings with key leaders, including Senator Bob Dole, Vice President Biden, MITCH MCCONNELL, Alfonse D'Amato, Tom Lantos, Susan Molinari, and many others.

In his advocacy for independence in Kosova and democracy in Albania, Harry Bajraktari contributed to community organizations, wrote-ops, met with American and international officials, testified in the U.S. Congress and spoke at many rallies. In 1991, he founded Illyria, a modern and professional Albanian-American newspaper. Based in New York, it had subscribers throughout the United States and overseas. To this day, Illyria remains a voice for Albanian-Americans and continues to inform the community and the American people.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush issued what is known as the Christmas Warning to Milosevic, threatening military intervention if Serbia provoked a war in Kosova. In March 1999, after Belgrade's tanks rolled into Kosova, President Bill Clinton fulfilled that promise, and the United States led NATO in war against Yugoslavia. They stopped a humanitarian catastrophe and the ethnic cleansing of more than a million Albanians, and liberated Kosova.

This represented the end of the wars of Milosevic's Balkan wars and, one year later, he fell from power, ushering in a new era of relative peace and stability in the region. In 2008, Kosova became the newest independent country in Europe with the support and the recognition of the United States. It is now recognized by more than 110 nations.

Harry Bajraktari followed the example of other great Albanian-American leaders of the early 20th century like Bishop Fan Noli and Ambassador Faik Konitza, who worked to forge the special relationship and historic friendship between ethnic Albanians and the United States of America. He was also inspired by a great Albanian American leader in business and politics, Anthony Athanas, in Boston.

Harry and many others from such states as New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, Texas, Illinois, Michigan and other states worked together and became instrumental in making the voice of Albanian Ameri-

cans heard in Washington. They founded the National Albanian American Council, which was the leading Albanian American organization in Washington, D.C. for many years.

Although Metë Bajraktari passed away in 1998 and did not live to see his dream of a free and independent Kosova come true, his family continues to remember him as they continue to fight for their homeland. Today, a major shopping center in Peja is dedicated to him, fifty years after he fled Belgrade's oppression. That shopping center stands strong in the heart of the city and I am honored that a street in my name borders that facility.

For his great work in support of Kosova's independence, advocacy for democracy in Albania, and human rights throughout the Balkans, Harry Bajraktari has been recognized with the highest medals and honors. These awards are high honors from the President of Kosova, the President of Albania and recognition from the White House. When the story of Kosova is finally told, let us always recall the commitment of Harry Bajraktari and his family.

Here in the United States, Harry Bajraktari is recognized for his support for humanitarian and community initiatives. He and his family are proud, patriotic, Americans with a deep gratitude for what their new home, the United States, has given to them, and, in exchange, their hard work and success has made New York and this country a better place to live.

When they arrived on these shores, the Bajraktaris were only six people. A seventh, the youngest sibling, Miftar, was born during that first year in America. Today, Harry Bajraktari is the proud father of four children and has eight grandchildren. His sister, Nuriye (Bajraktari) Osmani has four children and three grandchildren. Litafete (Bajraktari) Gega has four children and one grandchild. Hateme (Bajraktari) Nezaj has three children. Miftar Bajraktari has three children.

Metë and Ziza have passed away, but their memory lives with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. The continued story of the Bajraktari family will live on as a singular example of achieving the American dream. And today, their vision has become a reality, and their promises have been fulfilled. Harry has told me on many occasions his family's journey to America and the opportunities afforded to them through this journey was worth their many sacrifices. These are the kind of stories and people that add depth and humanity to our country's rich heritage. And, for myself, I am proud to call Harry Bajraktari and his family close personal friends and to honor the 50th anniversary of their arrival in the United States.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF BRETT
MCVANNEL FOR HIS SERVICE IN
THE GAYLORD CITY POLICE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Brett McVannel for his retirement as chief of the Gaylord City Police Department. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Brett has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Born and raised in Gaylord, Chief McVannel dedicated nearly 25 years of his life to the people of Michigan, serving in Kalkaska and Otsego County before becoming chief in Gaylord. During his tenure Brett thrived as a leader and communicator, working productively with other local leaders and forming a familial bond in the department he oversaw. His exceptional leadership skills are reflected in the excellence of the officers who have served under him and the trust placed in him by the people of Northern Michigan. Chief McVannel's constant dedication to the public good is commendable, and the impact of his work on the people of Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Chief Brett McVannel for his decades of service to the people of our state. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a devoted individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Brett all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
DANIEL SWAIM

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Daniel Swaim for his exceptional service to the House CAO Office of Finance's Budget, Planning and Analysis (BPA) division.

Lt. Swaim was detailed to BPA during a vital period to coordinate the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget formulation process and assist with execution of the House's FY 2019 resources. His superior knowledge of the federal budgeting process, keen analytical skills, and work ethic enabled BPA to mitigate its temporary personnel gaps. Lt. Swaim's efforts facilitated better insight on available resources, led to optimal decision making on allocation of funds, and ultimately enabled timely delivery of a well justified FY 2020 House Budget.

Lt. Swaim's stellar professionalism and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Lt. Swaim for his dedication and service and wish him fair winds and following seas as he embarks on his next assignment as the Commanding Officer of USCG Cutter *Sturgeon Bay*.

HONORING RONALD DELLUMS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, we celebrate our colleague and friend Ronald Dellums at a time of historic polarization in Congress. It is a good time to remember the peace advocate who chaired the Armed Services Committee with such equanimity that he won the respect, even the friendship, of those who opposed every cause, of the many into which Ron poured his considerable talent.

I first came to admire Ron even before being elected to Congress from my work in the Free South Africa anti-apartheid movement. For 14 years, Ron did not relent until he freed his landmark bill for South Africa divestment, overcoming a presidential veto.

By the time I was elected to Congress, Ron had already been chair of the District of Columbia Committee for more than a decade. That committee is long gone, and nothing would have pleased Chairman Dellums more than its demise. But when freedom-loving Ron Dellums first came to Congress, he knew that if there had to be such a Committee, he wanted a seat on it. Just as Ron sought peace by serving on the Armed Service Committee, he sought to free D.C. from congressional control by serving on the D.C. Committee.

He joined the D.C. Committee during his very first term in Congress. Upon becoming chair of the Committee, Ron framed his service as "an advocate, not an overseer of District affairs." No sooner had Ron gotten to Congress in 1975, in his very first term, long before I even thought about becoming a Member, he introduced the first D.C. statehood bill.

Ron would relish our progress today as we close in on enough votes for the D.C. statehood bill to pass in the House this term. We expect a vote soon in the Oversight and Reform Committee to send the bill to the House Floor. When that committee vote occurs, we will not be able to claim we are breaking new or historic ground. In 1987, more than 30 years ago, Chairman Ron Dellums proclaimed, "There should be no colonies in a democracy" and led the District Committee in a vote for statehood for the District of Columbia that passed in his Committee.

The American citizens who live in the nation's capital will forever remember Ron Dellums, prescient warrior for equality and freedom—and well ahead of his time—a leader for statehood for the District of Columbia.

LORELEI DOMKE—CRITICAL
LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP (CLS)

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lorelei Domke, a Cape Coral, FL resident and senior at New College of Florida studying Chinese language and culture, who was awarded the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship.

The Critical Language Scholarship Program is merit-based and funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The scholarship program seeks to expand the number of Americans studying foreign languages for national security and economic prosperity by providing instruction abroad in fourteen key languages. Out of more than 5,500 student applications, Ms. Domke was among the 572 students to be selected.

I congratulate Lorelei on her selection for the Critical Language Scholarship and look forward to seeing the contributions she will make to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAPLE
ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Maintaining Appropriate Protections For Legal Entry (MAPLE) Act. This bill, which is included within the Responsibly Addressing the Marijuana Policy Gap Act (H.R. 1119), would exempt cannabis-use and/or participation in the cannabis industry as a disqualification for entry into the United States from a country that has ended its marijuana prohibition and would protect foreign nationals who participate in cannabis activity in states where it's legal from deportation.

Our federal cannabis laws are outdated and out of touch. They also have negatively impacted countless lives. Congress cannot continue to be out of touch with a movement that a growing majority of Americans support. It's time to end this senseless prohibition.

HONORING DR. HIRAM TAVAREZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Hiram Tavaréz from McAllen, Texas. Dr. Tavaréz recently retired after dedicating his career to the health and prosperity of the people of South Texas. For the past 55 years, he has worked tirelessly to help people in the Rio Grande Valley lead healthy lives.

Dr. Tavaréz earned his medical degree from the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico, and started his residency in internal medicine at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas. In 1965, Dr. Tavaréz finished his residency and joined his brothers, Marvin and Vicente, in McAllen where they began practicing medicine. There, they opened the Tavaréz Medical Center which still serves our community today. In the early days of the Tavaréz Medical Center, Hiram and his brothers frequently made house calls homes to administer treatment and care. Dr. Tavaréz would continue to demonstrate his unwavering commitment to serving others throughout his career. His good deeds did not go unnoticed as he received several honors and awards for his commitment to his community and patients.

Dr. Tavaréz's dedication to helping others is matched by his staff's loyalty and mission of service. The staff at the Tavaréz Medical Center consistently praise Dr. Tavaréz for his compassion and his kindness; sentiments echoed by his patients. For more than half a century, Dr. Tavaréz has unfailingly ensured every patient receives the highest quality care possible. His past shines brightly with his good feats, and his retirement is well deserved.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Tavaréz is a pillar of the community in South Texas and serves as an example to all of us. It is truly an honor to represent dedicated, selfless individuals like him.

OFFICER ANTHONY NERI

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Anthony Neri, an officer with the Sanibel Police Department who passed away on Monday, May 6, 2019. Mr. Neri had served the Sanibel Police Department since 2012, and as an officer since 2015.

Prior to serving with the Police Department in Sanibel, Mr. Neri was a Revenue Officer with the U.S. Department of the Treasury for 30 years. He also served as a police officer in Union Township, New Jersey prior to moving to Southwest Florida.

Officer Neri was honored along with 18 other officers at the Lee County Fallen Officer Memorial Ceremony held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at Centennial Park in Fort Myers, Florida.

I am grateful to Officer Neri for his service to our community, and my thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family.

OPINION PIECE BY U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL DAVID M. FRIEDMAN

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following piece authored by U.S. Ambassador to Israel, David M. Friedman in honor of the one-year anniversary of the U.S. embassy opening in Jerusalem:

A YEAR AFTER OPENING THE JERUSALEM
EMBASSY: ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY

On May 14, 2018, the United States finally opened its embassy in Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem. In making the courageous decision to take this historic step, President Donald Trump not only fulfilled a 23-year-old mandate from the United States Congress but he also recognized a 3,000-year-old truth that Israel's enemies have long sought to erase.

America has been fascinated by Jerusalem since the early days of our republic. In 1844, Warder Cresson, the first consul general, announced after his appointment by the secretary of state that the United States was thereby extending its protection to the Jews of Jerusalem. The first permanent consular presence opened just inside the Jaffa Gate in 1857, and diplomatic presence has remained constant in and around the Old City ever since. President Abraham Lincoln, just before his death, told his wife how he longed to visit Jerusalem. And President Ulysses Grant and Mark Twain both visited Jerusalem in the mid-19th century and wrote extensively about their experiences.

Neither Grant nor Twain were all that impressed with Jerusalem in those days. It was poor, inhospitable and undeveloped. The Old City of Jerusalem remained that way well into the 20th century, whether under the rule of the Ottoman Empire until 1917, the British Mandate until 1948, or the Kingdom of Jordan until 1967. In 1967, Jerusalem was reunified as a single city under Israeli rule. Almost immediately, Jerusalem began to

bloom, to flourish and to become, for the first time in its history, a free city open to the worshippers of all three Abrahamic faiths. Many in the United States took notice and, in 1995, Congress, by overwhelming majority votes, passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act, recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel and requiring the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama all found reasons to avoid the implementation of this law. All in all, more than 40 presidential waivers were signed delaying the move of the Embassy. And then came President Trump.

Trump recognized the truth—that Jerusalem was, is and will always be the capital of Israel. He saw the dishonest and shameful efforts of UNESCO and the United Nations Security Council to deny Israel's biblical, historical and practical connection to Jerusalem. And he refused to pursue a foreign policy based upon anything short of the truth. President Trump, like other Republican and Democratic candidates before him, had promised during his campaign to move the Embassy. Unlike his predecessors, Trump kept his promise.

The United States Embassy in Jerusalem has now been open a full year. We have a beautiful campus in the Arnona suburb and magnificent facilities on Agron Street in downtown Jerusalem. Well more than 100 American diplomats come to work every day, working hand in hand with Israelis and Palestinians, and American and foreign tourists visit every day just to take a picture or say a prayer. Contrary to all the negative predictions, the Jerusalem embassy has been an extraordinary success, advancing peaceful coexistence, bilateral cooperation and cultural exchange between and among Israelis, Palestinians and Americans.

Most of all, the United States Embassy in Jerusalem stands for the truth—the bedrock of all successful policies. Moving our embassy places the United States firmly on the right side of history.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICH MATSUDAIRA

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Martin "Mich" Matsudaira. Mr. Matsudaira was a pillar for Asian American advocacy in Washington State. He dedicated his life to increasing awareness for the history and challenges of those in the Asian American community.

Mr. Matsudaira was an influential voice in Washington State. Serving as the first Director of The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)—he helped create one of the first and most successful commissions of its kind. His work with CAPAA has touched thousands of people's lives. From his advocacy on behalf of Vietnamese Refugees during the transition process after the Vietnam War, to leading the charge for the redress of Executive Order 9066 and Japanese Internment, Mr. Matsudaira was a champion for Asian-American rights and a political advocate.

Mr. Matsudaira personally understood the challenges that Asian-Americans face in our country. Growing up, he and his family spent three years in a Japanese internment camp.

After his service in the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1960, he graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in economics and went to work for Boeing. He worked tirelessly to promote social justice throughout his career, and became a champion for diverse communities in Washington State. On top of his critical work in public service, he ran a small business called Mich's Mens' Shop, and raised four children. Mr. Matsudaira will be remembered for his groundbreaking efforts in civil rights, and his commitment to the community around him.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and humility that I recognize the life of Mich Matsudaira, a staple of the Seattle Community, and a leader in civic service.

ELLEN TAUSCHER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, Ellen Tauscher was tough, strategic and effective.

As we mourn the loss of our friend Ellen, we are reminded of not only of the deals that she forged here in the halls of Congress, but also the continued treaties that she established between nations.

As we have heard many of my colleagues stress today, Ellen stands out because she created success and opportunity in rare, tough situations.

I knew Ellen could always bring all sides to the table.

Ellen's work at the highest levels of government have roots in her remarkable career prior to politics—being a trailblazing member of the New York Stock Exchange and founding the ChildCare Registry in Northern California.

Her bold leadership style created an environment of confidence and trust.

On a personal level, I remember the fun times we had together talking and sharing the adventures—highs and lows of our kids.

Today and as we move forward, I know the world is safer because of Ellen Tauscher's leadership in the State Department and Armed Services Committee. We will all miss her courage, her thoughtfulness, and her humanity.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK 2019

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise during National Law Enforcement Week 2019 to honor the valiant men and women who protect and serve the city of Haverhill, Massachusetts. The Haverhill Police Department consists of outstanding public servants who devote their lives to keeping the citizens of the city safe, while improving the lives of countless individuals.

Like most Americans each day, they get up, say goodbye to their loved ones, and head to work. But their work, and the work of police officers around the country, is like no other. From the moment they put on their uniform

they have answered a call that at any moment may put their lives in harm's way.

I thank the Haverhill Police Department for their continued and unwavering service and wish them well in their careers and future endeavors to come.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the Officers of the Haverhill Massachusetts Police Department.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE DAMON J. KEITH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the Honorable Judge Damon J. Keith for his leadership and tremendous contributions to the civil rights movement, and to honor his memory.

Born on July 4th, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan—a fitting birth date for a man who upheld the rights so cherished by our nation—Damon Keith was the youngest of six children born to Annie and Perry Alexander, a Ford factory worker. Keith was a proud graduate of the Detroit Public School System, graduating with honors from Northwestern High School in 1939. Keith was the first of his family to attend college and from there he went on to serve in the military before graduating from Howard University Law School in 1949. Judge Keith returned to Detroit to begin his legal career, earning an LLM from Wayne State University.

Damon Keith worked in his own private law practice until 1967 when he was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Keith served as Chief Judge from 1975 to 1977 before he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Judge Keith's career is distinguished by his tireless defense of the U.S. Constitution. He decided several important cases that advanced civil rights in the State of Michigan. His legacy in the civil rights movement includes deciding cases against segregating schools, employment and housing discrimination, and federal wiretapping policies. Key among these cases are a 1970 decision ordering desegregation of Pontiac schools, a 1971 ruling that Nixon and AG Mitchell violated the federal constitution by wiretapping students in Ann Arbor, and lastly a 2002 ruling that deportation hearings held in private are unconstitutional—an opinion in which he famously wrote, "Democracies die behind closed doors." He was also instrumental in upholding the rights of local workers across the state. In 1973, Judge Keith ordered Detroit Edison to pay \$4 million to black employees who were victims of job discrimination and ordered the company to create an affirmative action program. He also ordered the union to pay \$250,000 for failing to protect their workers from discrimination. His tireless work and fight to advance the quality of life for all people are memories and values we will forever cherish and continue to uphold.

It is a great privilege to recognize a gentleman who contributed so much of his life to fight for human rights and civil equality for human beings. This is in recognition of a great

loss to our state and a tribute to Judge Keith's surviving family as we honor his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO NCSU ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR DEBBIE YOW

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Debbie Yow, Athletic Director at North Carolina State University (NCSU), who is retiring this month. Dr. Yow joined the Wolfpack in 2010 with the responsibility of leading the athletics department of the largest university in North Carolina. In her eight-year tenure, Dr. Yow has worked to make NCSU's athletics department one of the best in the nation—both in the classroom and in competition.

Dr. Yow's tenure as the athletic director has been marked by the unprecedented academic success of NCSU's student-athletes. This past year, an all-time high of 59 NCSU student-athletes were named academic All-Americans. Overall, the students reached a record graduation rate. Under Dr. Yow's tenure, the Wolfpack also made remarkable improvements in competition. In the last three years, an aver-

age of 79 students were named competitive All-Americans, an all-time high for NCSU student-athletes. From 2010–12, the school made the biggest single jump of any Atlantic Coast Conference school in history, improving from No. 89 to No. 37 in NACDA rankings.

Dr. Yow has received numerous accolades for her outstanding leadership. The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics recently selected her as the 2018–19 Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year and named her the 2019 James J. Corbett Memorial Award Recipient, which is the highest honor one can achieve in collegiate athletics administration. Both *Street and Smith's Sports Business Journal* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education* have cited Dr. Yow as one of the 20 most influential people in college athletics. Additionally, she was selected to serve on the President's U.S. Department of Education Commission on Opportunities in Athletics, to review the status of Federal Title IX regulations, and was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

Prior to serving as athletic director at NCSU, Dr. Yow served as athletic director at University of Maryland, where she was the first female athletic director in the ACC. Before becoming an administrator, she served as the women's basketball coach at University of Kentucky, Oral Roberts University, and the

University of Florida. Yow also served as a high school coach at Williams High (Burlington, NC) and Eastern Guilford High (Gibsonville, NC). She received a bachelor's degree from Elon University and a master's degree from Liberty University. Yow also has been awarded honorary doctorates from Elon, Liberty and the United States Sports Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Debbie Yow for her outstanding contributions to NC State University and to thousands of student athletes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for the following votes on Thursday, May 9th and Friday, May 10th.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 195; YEA on Roll Call No. 196; YEA on Roll Call No. 197; YEA on Roll Call No. 198; YEA on Roll Call No. 199; YEA on Roll Call No. 200; NAY on Roll Call No. 201; and YEA on Roll Call No. 202.